



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
Eastern District of California*

501 I Street, Suite 10-100
Sacramento, California 95814

916/554-2700
Fax 916/554-2900

For Immediate Release
April 14, 2005

Contact: Shiela Oberto, 559-498-7272
Available at: www.usdoj.gov/usao/cae/home

TAX PREPARER CHARGED WITH TAX AND IDENTITY THEFT CRIMES

FRESNO, CA - United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that GLORIA ROJO, 64, of Bakersfield, CA, was indicted today by a federal grand jury on 28 counts of aiding, assisting, counseling, and procuring the filing of false tax returns and six counts of using without lawful authority a means of identification to commit a violation of federal law.

This case is the product of an investigation by Special Agent Christopher Fitzpatrick of Criminal Investigations, Internal Revenue Service,.

The indictment alleges that ROJO operated a tax preparation business and prepared tax returns for individuals. Based on the indictment, ROJO allegedly prepared 28 false tax returns for others between January 1998 and April 2003. All of these returns allegedly contained false claims for an Earned Income Tax Credit which is a subsidy for low income taxpayers.

Six additional counts of the indictment charge that ROJO used social security numbers with the intent to aid and abet the preparation of false income tax returns.

According to Roger L. Wirth, IRS Northern California Special Agent in Charge: "The IRS is actively looking for schemes like these, and will recommend criminal prosecutions whenever appropriate. Tax crimes affect us all. When anyone cheats the tax system, we're all cheated."

According to Assistant United States Attorney Sheila K. Oberto, who is prosecuting the case, if convicted, the maximum penalty under federal law for each offense of aiding and assisting in the filing of false tax returns is 3 years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine. The maximum penalty under federal law for the offense of using without lawful authority a means of identification to commit a violation of federal law is 5 years and a \$250,000 fine.

The charges are allegations only and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

###